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Jails

Alleged ill-treatment of Mr. Vellore Kuppuswami Mudaliyar in Madura jail.

* 14 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Vellore Kuppuswami Mudaliyar is now confined in the Madura jail;

(b) whether the said Mr. Kuppuswami Mudaliyar asked the Inspector-General of Prisons during his visit to the Madura jail during March 1929 to be transferred to some other jail;

(c) whether Government are aware that the authorities of Madura jail have been treating him with entire severity since then;

(d) whether the jail authorities have stopped the 'saiva' food that had been hitherto given to him;

(e) whether books have been refused to him;

(f) whether it is a fact that the jail authorities had forcibly taken away from him the bedding and books which he had hitherto been allowed to retain; and

(g) whether it is a fact that he has lost in weight considerably since his admission into jail?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) Enquiry shows that the implication in this question is unfounded.

(d) The prisoner has been on the standard rice diet since his admission to the jail.

(e) No.

(f) His books have not been taken away; he has been supplied with the ordinary jail bedding.

(g) His weight on admission to the jail was 118 lb., it is now 114 lb. The normal physical equivalent of a man of his stature is 108 lb. The state of his health is reported to be very good.

14-A Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Vellore Kuppuswami Mudaliyar is confined in a cell both day and night in Madura jail;

(b) whether all light is denied to him after 8 p.m. in the night;

(c) whether his weight has been considerably reduced; and

(d) whether the Government propose to investigate into the complaints and redress them; and if not, why not?

A.—(a) Only during the night is the prisoner locked up in a cell.

(b) He is allowed the use of a light till 9-30 p.m. in accordance with the rules;

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (g) of question No. 14.

(d) Enquiry shows that complaints regarding the treatment of the prisoner are unfounded.

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With regard to clause (b), may I know the grounds on which Mr. Kuppuswami Mudaliyar wanted to be transferred from the Madura Jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to ascertain why, if he had been so well treated in the Madura Jail, he should ask for a transfer therefrom ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether this gentleman was allowed the use of his own bedding and whether it was not taken away afterwards ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Usually the prisoners are not allowed to have bedding of their own. With reference to this particular case, I cannot say."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (a) of question No. 14-A, may I know if it is a fact that he is not locked up in a cell during day ? "

The hon Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir. He is not locked up."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" As regards the answer to clause (c) of my question which is answered in clause (g) of question No. 14, may I know if the Government have ascertained why he has lost weight ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir. It is only a loss of four pounds, and the medical authorities are of opinion that a man of his stature ordinarily has a weight of only about 108 pounds, whereas his weight is 114 pounds."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether on holidays he is not locked up during the day in a cell ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not think that there is any special rule with reference to holidays."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. Member will make enquiries whether his own bedding was allowed to him but was afterwards taken away, whether he, being a simple imprisonment prisoner, was allowed to get his bedding from his own house and whether it was not taken away after he complained to the Inspector-General of Prisons ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall make enquiries."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to answer to clause (d) of question No. 14-A, may I know what this enquiry was ? Was it merely an enquiry like the Government asking the Superintendent of the Jail, 'These are the complaints ; are they true ? ', and the Superintendent replying 'No' or something like that, or was any other enquiry made ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Other enquiries were made, Sir. Enquiry was made by the District Magistrate also."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether this particular prisoner is allowed all the privileges of social life that are allowed to the simple imprisonment prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Transfer of Mr. B. Sambamurti to the Bellary jail.

* 15 Q.—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. B. Sambamurti has been sent to the Bellary jail from the Rajahmundry jail ;

(*b*) whether he was made to walk a distance of nearly two miles from the jail during night time and carry his luggage with him on his shoulders ;

(*c*) the reasons for the said transfer ; and

(*d*) the reasons for not providing the conveyance for himself or his luggage ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The prisoner was taken on foot from the jail to the Godavari railway station. He carried his bedding, while the other articles belonging to him were carried by the escort constables.

(*c*) The prisoner was transferred from the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, as his stay in that jail was considered undesirable on administrative grounds.

(*d*) Under the rules in the Madras Jail Manual, all able-bodied prisoners transferred by road are required to walk but, if the distance is over ten miles and the two places are connected by motor bus service, the prisoners may be taken by bus at the cost of Government. In the present case, the distance that had to be travelled by road was only two miles, and the medical officer did not consider it necessary to recommend the transport of the prisoner to the railway station in a conveyance.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), may I know what are the administrative grounds referred to therein ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It was considered that he was a man of influence and as such there might be trouble if he was kept in that particular jail."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :— " May I know if this ground existed prior to his entry into the Rajahmundry jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, if this ground came into existence subsequent to his entry into the Rajahmundry jail or was in existence prior thereto also ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know when it came into existence, but it was there when he was in that jail."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" Sir, my question is this. I want to know whether the administrative grounds existed by the time he was taken to the Rajahmundry jail, or whether there were any grounds supervening subsequent to his entry into the Rajahmundry jail that necessitated his transfer therefrom ? "